

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083809

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ORIGIN PM-03

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R 112311Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083809

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CI

SUBJECT:NOMINATION OF NEW MILGP COMMANDER
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM VEST

1. I HAVE CAREFULLY LOOKED INTO YOUR PROBLEM AND READ THE
TELEGRAMS ON THIS MATTER. FIRST, OF COURSE, WE WANT TO
ARRANGE THESE CHANGES TO MEET YOUR NEEDS BEST IN THIS VERY
SENSITIVE PERIOD OF US-CHILEAN RELATIONS. THE CHOICE OF
MILGP COMMANDERS IS YOURS. WE AND DOD WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE
COMPETENT OFFICERS AND TRY TO MINIMIZE PERSONNEL GAPS IN KEY
POSITIONS REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU DECIDE.

2 DOD IS URGING COL GEORGE'S APPOINTMENT AS COMUSMILGP
BECAUSE IT WILL (A) INITIATE THEROTATION WHICH THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED, (B) PROVIDE CONTINUITY, (C) ELIMIN-
ATE DUAL-HATTING AND (D) NOT LEAD, IT SEEMS, TO DEPARTURE OF
CURRENT AIR FORCE SECTION CHIEF. (DOD CLAIMS HE IS PREPARED
TO STAY ON THE JOB UNTIL HIS REPLACEMENT ARRIVES LATE THIS
YEAR).

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3. FURTHER, DOD IS PREPARED TO RETAIN THE CURRENT MILGP

PLANS/ADMIN. OFFICER AND THE CURRENT ENGINEER/TRAINING OFFICER
IN THEIR POSITIONS ABOUT THREE MONTHS LONGER THAN THEIR

SCHEDULED REASSIGNMENT DATES, WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN
CONTINUITY.

4. THE ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDED IN PARAGRAPH 6, REF (B),
AS SEEN FROM HERE, WOULD BOTH UNDERCUT CONTINUITY AND DE-
LAY THE CHILEAN-SUGGESTED ROTATION. OF COURSE, ONLY YOU
CAN WEIGH ALL THE BALANCING FACTORS. IF YOU DO NOT WANT
COLONEL GEORGE AS COMUSMILGP PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND ALSO
TELL ME YOUR PREFERENCE IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACTORS IN PARA
3. THEN I WILL TRY TO FIND A SATISFACTORY, OR AT LEAST
THE LEAST UNSATISFACTORY ANSWER TO YOUR NEEDS. IN ANY
EVENT PLEASE FEEL ASSURED THAT WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR
MISGIVINGS TO DOD. WE WILL TRY TO PREVENT SUCH PROBLEMS
FROM ARISING IN THE FUTURE. KISSINGER

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TAGS: MASS, CI, DOD, (GEORGE)
To: SANTIAGO
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